

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 11, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as non-statutory subject matter; rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,738,001 to Aditham et al. (Aditham); and rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0103824 to Koppolu et al. (Koppolu).

By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 2-3 and 10-11; amends claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 2 and 3; amends claim 9 to incorporate the canceled subject matter of claims 10 and 11; amends claims 1 and 4-8 in response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101; and adds new claims 13 and 14. Claims 1, 4-9, and 12-14 are currently pending.

Rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §101

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as non-statutory subject matter. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. To expedite prosecution, Applicant has, however, amended claims 1 and 4-8 to include the phrase "computer-implemented." Accordingly, the rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. § 101 should be withdrawn.

Rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of Aditham

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as unpatentable over Aditham. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 recites a combination of features including, among other things, "a virtual object space providing access to a plurality of objects, each object having a set of functionality and being identifiable by a unique identifier provided by the virtual object space, and providing generic object functionality for the plurality of objects including an

associations and transactions functionality for relating the plurality of objects and interaction between the plurality of objects, a distribution functionality for locking, flushing, and copying of the virtual object space, and a persistency functionality for maintaining persistency of the plurality of objects.”

The Examiner alleges that Aditham at FIG. 3, column 5, lines 15-35, and column 6, lines 47-65 discloses the above-noted feature of claim 1. The Examiner's citations to Aditham, at best, describe a collaboration manager 10, which may have one or more sessions represented by session objects. (Column 5, lines 15-35). Aditham also describes message objects characterizing them as follows:

FIG. 6 shows an exemplary message object 20 which includes a type ID in the header 22 for identifying the message type and an information portion 34 containing the information to be delivered to the destination program. All messages are typed and the basic message class is called CMessage and has no content (portion 34 is empty). Application programs can sub-class the basic message type, CMessage, and use instances of the subclasses in the collaboration system. However, the message type of a message may or may not be the same as the class name of the message type. For example, two instances of the same message class may have different message types. In the preferred embodiment, an arbitrary message can be sent to a collaborating program even if that program does not have the subclass information. In this case, the known class downloading properties of the JAVA virtual machine together with the transparent object-streaming facilities of RMI enable the collaborating program to receive a message even though it could not receive it otherwise.

Aditham, column 6, lines 47-65. Although Aditham discloses message objects 20 which include a type ID, Aditham is, however, completely silent with respect to “a virtual object space” providing generic object functionality, such as an associations and transactions functionality, a distribution functionality, and a persistency functionality. Accordingly, Aditham fails to disclose “a virtual object space ... providing generic object functionality for the plurality of objects including an associations and transactions functionality for

relating the plurality of objects and interaction between the plurality of objects, a distribution functionality for locking, flushing, and copying of the virtual object space, and a persistency functionality for maintaining persistency of the plurality of objects,” as recited in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Aditham, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of claim 1 and claim 4, at least by reason of its dependency from independent claim 1, should be withdrawn.

Claims 5 and 9, although of different scope, include features similar to those noted above with respect to claim 1. Claims 6-8 depend from claim 5. Claim 12 depends from claim 9. For at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 1, claims 5-9 and 12 are not anticipated by Aditham, and the rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn.

Rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of Koppolu

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as unpatentable over Koppolu. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner appears to allege that Koppolu at paragraphs 0012, 0191, 0539 and figures 5-7 discloses the above-noted feature of claim 1. Koppolu merely discloses an object-oriented framework for hyperlink navigation. In particular, Koppolu's framework provides a hyperlink object that encapsulates general hyperlink navigation functions. As such, nowhere does Koppolu disclose “a virtual object space” providing generic object functionality, such as an associations and transactions functionality, a distribution functionality, and a persistency functionality. Accordingly, Koppolu fails to disclose “a virtual object space ... providing generic object functionality for the plurality of objects including an associations and transactions functionality for relating the plurality of objects and interaction between the plurality of objects, a distribution

functionality for locking, flushing, and copying of the virtual object space, and a persistency functionality for maintaining persistency of the plurality of objects,” as recited in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Koppolu, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of claim 1 and claim 4, at least by reason of its dependency from independent claim 1, should be withdrawn.

Claims 5 and 9, although of different scope, include features similar to those noted above with respect to claim 1. Claims 6-8 depend from claim 5. Claim 12 depends from claim 9. For at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 1, claims 5-9 and 12 are not anticipated by Koppolu, and the rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn.

Regarding new claims 13 and 14, Applicant submits that new claims 13 and 14 are not anticipated by the cited references at least by reason of their dependency from independent claims 1 and 9, respectively.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. No fee is believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 34874-162.

Respectfully submitted,

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